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IN THE CLAIMS:

1.-2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The cathode ray tube according to claim 29, wherein the connecting portion has an approximately V-shaped configuration.

4. (Currently Amended) The cathode ray tube according to claim 29, wherein the fixed portion of the elastic support member has an area of at least 5 ~~cm~~²cm².

5. (Currently Amended) The cathode ray tube according to claim 29, wherein the ratio of the area of the fixed portion of the elastic support member to the area of the frame portion to which the elastic support member is greater than 1/25.

6. (Currently Amended) The cathode ray tube according to claim 19, wherein the elastic support member includes a vibration suppressing structure.

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7. (Currently Amended) The cathode ray tube according to claim 29, wherein the connecting portion of the elastic support member has an opening having a predetermined size that determines the spring constant of the elastic support member.

8. (Currently Amended) A cathode ray tube, comprising at least a panel having a phosphor screen thereon, a shadow mask having a plurality of electron beam-passing portions, and a frame across which the shadow mask is stretched so that a tensile force is applied thereto, the frame being securely attached to the panel by an elastic support member and the phosphor screen is opposed to the shadow mask, wherein:

the elastic support member is located substantially in the middle portion of the frame;

~~The cathode ray tube according to claim 1, wherein~~

~~the force applied to the frame portion is in the range of 1 kgf to 8 kgf~~ the spring constant of the elastic support member is in the range of 0.1 kgf/mm to 2.5 kgf/mm when the frame is located in the panel with the elastic support member; and

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the shadow mask is configured such that the tension in a middle portion of the shadow mask is larger than the tension at edge portions of the shadow mask.

9. (Currently Amended) A cathode ray tube, comprising at least a panel having a phosphor screen thereon and a panel side wall, a shadow mask having a plurality of electron beam-passing portions, and a frame across which the shadow mask is stretched so that a tensile force is applied thereto, the frame being securely attached to the panel by an elastic support member and the phosphor screen is opposed to the shadow mask, wherein:

the elastic support member is located substantially in a middle portion of the frame;

the elastic support member comprises a fixed portion fixed to the frame, a matching portion matched to a stud pin located on the inside of the panel side wall, and a connecting portion connecting the matching portion and the fixed portion;

The cathode ray tube according to claim 2, wherein the spring constant of the elastic support member is in the range of 0.1 kgf/mm to 2.5 kgf/mm; and

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the shadow mask is configured such that the tension in a middle portion of the shadow mask is larger than the tension at the edge portions of the shadow mask.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) The cathode ray tube according to claim 9¹, wherein the shadow mask comprises a damper for attenuating vibration.

12. (Original) The cathode ray tube according to claim 11, wherein the damper is freely movable relative to the shadow mask.

13. (Previously Presented) The cathode ray tube according to claim 12, wherein the damper is located in an opening in the shadow mask.

14. (Original) The cathode ray tube according to claim 13, wherein the damper is a wire-like member.

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15. (Original) The cathode ray tube according to claim 13, wherein the damper is a ring-like member.

16. (Currently Amended) The cathode ray tube according to claim 19, wherein the shadow mask comprises a Fe-Ni alloy.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~A cathode ray tube comprising at least a panel having a phosphor screen formed thereon, a shadow mask having a plurality of electron beam-passing portions, and a frame across which the shadow mask is stretched so that a tensile force is applied thereto, the frame being securely attached to the panel by an elastic support member while the phosphor screen is opposed to the shadow mask~~ The cathode ray tube according to claim 9, wherein the elastic support member is fixed to an elastic support member-holding plate located substantially in the middle of a the frame portion and the shadow mask is configured such that the tension in the middle portion of the shadow mask is larger than the tension at the edge portions of the shadow mask.

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18-52. (Cancelled)

53. (Currently Amended) An image display apparatus, comprising:

a cathode ray tube ~~according to claim 1~~, an electron beam controlling circuit, and a cabinet, wherein the cathode ray tube comprises:

at least a panel having a phosphor screen thereon, a shadow mask having a plurality of electron beam-passing portions, and a frame across which the shadow mask is stretched so that a tensile force is applied thereto, the frame being securely attached to the panel by an elastic support member and the phosphor screen is opposed to the shadow mask, wherein:

the elastic support member is located substantially in the middle portion of the frame;

the spring constant of the elastic support member is in the range of 0.1 kgf/mm to 2.5 kgf/mm when the frame is located in the panel with the elastic support member; and

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the shadow mask is configured such that the tension in a middle portion of the shadow mask is larger than the tension at edge portions of the shadow mask.

54-55. (Cancelled)

56. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~The image display apparatus according to claim 53, further comprising a loudspeaker connected to the display apparatus.

57-58. (Cancelled)

59. (New) The cathode ray tube according to claim 17, wherein the elastic support member includes a vibration suppressing structure.

60. (New) The cathode ray tube according to claim 17, wherein the shadow mask comprises a damper for attenuating vibration.

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61. (New) The cathode ray tube according to claim 60, wherein the damper is freely movable relative to the shadow mask.

62. (New) The cathode ray tube according to claim 61, wherein the damper is located in an opening in the shadow mask.

63. (New) The cathode ray tube according to claim 62, wherein the damper is a wire-like member.

64. (New) The cathode ray tube according to claim 62, wherein the damper is a ring-like member.

65. (New) The cathode ray tube according to claim 17, wherein the shadow mask comprises a Fe-Ni alloy.